

United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to undertake the construction of, or to acquire and convert, not to exceed sixteen thousand tons of modern naval vessels in the combatant category, divided into the following subcategories:

- (a) Mine warfare vessels, four thousand tons; and
- (b) Patrol vessels, twelve thousand tons.

To the extent that any ships authorized under this Act are constructed in private shipyards, such contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder insofar as national security requirements will permit and such award is practical, and is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947 or the Act of March 27, 1934 (ch. 95, 48 Stat. 503), as amended.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the construction, or for the acquisition and conversion, of the foregoing vessels.

SEC. 3. The Act of August 8, 1950 (64 Stat. 420), is hereby amended by deleting "\$350,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$450,000,000".

Approved July 29, 1954.

Public Law 549

CHAPTER 614

AN ACT

To reenact the authority for the appointment of certain officers of the Regular Navy and Marine Corps.

Naval vessels.
Construction,
etc.

34 USC 494-497.

Appropriation.

34 USC 498m.

July 29, 1954
[H. R. 6725]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 5 (a) and 5 (c) of the Act of April 18, 1946 (60 Stat. 92), as amended (34 U. S. C. 15), are hereby reenacted and amended so as to extend the authority granted therein to July 1, 1955, and by deleting in the first sentence of section 5 (a) the words "in the Regular Navy and Marine Corps, respectively." and inserting in lieu thereof the words "not above lieutenant in the Regular Navy and captain in the Regular Marine Corps,".

SEC. 2. A person permanently appointed in the Regular Navy or Regular Marine Corps, under the authority of this Act, may also be temporarily appointed to a higher grade appropriate to the lineal position assigned, and such temporary appointment shall be regarded as having been effected pursuant to the law under which officers of the Regular Navy and Regular Marine Corps having comparable lineal position were temporarily appointed to such higher grade.

Approved July 29, 1954.

Navy and Marine
Corps.
Appointment of
officers.
Time extension.

Temporary
grade.

Public Law 550

CHAPTER 615

AN ACT

Authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain property to the Armory Board, State of Utah.

July 29, 1954
[S. 3561]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized and directed to convey, without monetary consideration and subject to the conditions in section 2 of this Act, to the Armory Board, State of Utah, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a tract of thirty-five acres of land, more or less, situated in the western end of the Veterans'

Armory Board,
Utah.

Conveyance.

Administration hospital reservation, Fort Douglas Station, Salt Lake City, Utah, the exact legal description of which shall be determined by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

Conditions.

SEC. 2. The deed of conveyance authorized under the provisions of this Act shall—

(a) provide that such tract shall not be alienated in the whole or in part by the Armory Board and shall be used only for training, civic, and related purposes;

(b) provide that, if such tract is so used in any manner that, in the judgment of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs or his designate, interferes with the care and treatment of patients in the Veterans' Administration hospital located on land contiguous to such tract, such interference shall cease immediately upon notice thereof to the Armory Board by the Administrator or his designate;

(c) provide that, if either of the conditions prescribed in clauses (a) and (b) of this section are violated, title to such tract shall revert to the United States; and

(d) shall reserve all mineral rights, including gas and oil, to the United States, and contain such additional terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions as may be determined by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

Approved July 29, 1954.

Public Law 551

CHAPTER 616

AN ACT

July 29, 1954
[H. R. 8026]

To provide for transfer of title to movable property to irrigation districts or water users' organizations under the Federal reclamation laws.

Irrigation works.
Movable prop-
erty title.
43 USC 371 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever an irrigation district or water users' organization assumes operation and maintenance of irrigation works pursuant to a contract entered into with the United States in accordance with the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto), the Secretary of the Interior may transfer to said district or organization title to movable property which has been purchased with funds advanced by the district or organization or which, in the case of property purchased with appropriated funds, is necessary to the operation and maintenance of such works and the value of which is to be repaid under a contract with the district or organization.

Approved July 29, 1954.

Public Law 552

CHAPTER 617

AN ACT

July 29, 1954
[H. R. 130]

To amend the Act approved June 27, 1947 (61 Stat. 189).

Navajo Indian
Reservation,
N. Mex.
Helium-bearing
land rights.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of the Act approved June 27, 1947 (61 Stat. 189), entitled "An Act authorizing certain agreements with respect to rights in helium-bearing gas lands in the Navajo Indian Reservation, New Mexico, and for other purposes", be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows: